

REMARKS

Abstract

A new abstract has been provided by separate sheet as requested by the examiner.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §112

Previously presented claims 1-13 have been replaced by new claims 14-28 and it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 is now moot. The various unclear claim passages identified by the examiner are no longer presented in the new claims.

Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

The prior claims were rejected as anticipated by Corain et al. U.S. 5,007,463.

From the examiner's comments, it would appear that the rejection of the claims flowed from the scope of the claim language previously presented for the examiner's consideration. The claims have been revised to more precisely define the inventive subject matter in a manner that clearly avoids any conflict with Corain et al.

More specifically, with reference to exemplary claim 14, first and second yarn clamps are recited wherein the second yarn clamp is resiliently yieldable to permit deflection of a length of weft yarn held in extended condition between the yarn clamps in response to additional tensile force while maintaining the length of weft yarn extended between the yarn clamps.

Neither Corain nor any of the other prior art documents of record show or teach such a construction in a transfer gripper for a rapier weaving loom.

The remaining claims 15-28 are dependent directly or indirectly from claim 14 and each claim recites additional elements constituting novel and unobvious subject matter.

Amendments to Specification

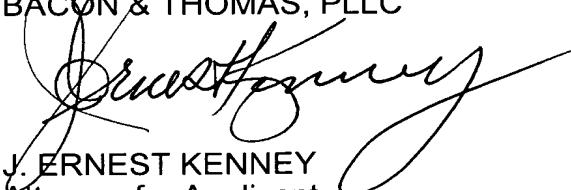
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/528,409
Attorney Docket: VERC3005/JEK

The specification has been amended to conform the language with the new claims without introduction of any new matter. Also, the specification has been amended on page 3 to recite the corresponding U.S. Patent No. 6,227,259 instead of International Publication WO 99/18274. A U.S. patent version is appropriate to be incorporated by reference in this application. The examiner's attention is invited to the fact that WO 99/18274 has been cited in an information disclosure statement previously submitted in this application.

General Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims currently presented in this application are fully patentable over the prior art of record and the various objections raised by the examiner have been corrected or rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is ready for issue and appropriate action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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